

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAL-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /156 W

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R 031705Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7264

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FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: COMMITTEE I - GUARANTEED ACCESS TO DEEP SEABED

REF: STATE 103976

1. REFTEL ASKS FOR ANALYSIS OF HOW REVISED SNT IN  
COMMITTEE I PROTECTS US POSITION ON ACCESS.

2. TOTAL TREATY SYSTEM FOR GRANTING OF RIGHTS MUST BE  
EXAMINED TO OBTAIN FULL PICTURE OF ACCESS PROTECTION  
AND ALL ARTICLES NOT YET PUBLISHED. MOST OBVIOUS  
PROTECTION, HOWEVER, IS IN PARAGRAPH 9A OF ANNEX I

WHICH REQUIRES THE AUTHORITY TO CONCLUDE A CONTRACT  
FOR FULLY INTEGRATED OPERATIONS WITH A PROPERLY  
QUALIFIED APPLICANT WHO AHS COMPLIED WITH PARAGRAPH 8.  
THIS APPLIES TO ALL ORGANS OF THE AUTHORITY. THUS,  
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UNDER PARA. 8 THE AUTHORITY IS ONLY REQUIRED TO ENTER

INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING A CONTRACT BECAUSE THE REQUIREMENT TO CONCLUDED WAS TO BE LOCATED ELSEWHERE TO PROVIDE COSMETIC FACE SAVER FOR GP OF 77, -458:)3 8(A) GIVES THE EXCLUSIVE GROUNDS FOR REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT. THE BASIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT ARE SPECIFIED ELSEWHERE IN THE ANNEX. THE OBLIGATION TO CONCLUDE THE CONTRACT UNDER 9(A) IS CONTINGENT ONLY ON THE ARTICLE 8 PROCEDURE. WE SEE NO RPT NO PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OBLIGATION TO CONCLUDE A CONTRACT WHEN SPECIFIED CRITERIA HAVE BEEN MET AND AN OBLIGATION NOT TO REFUSE IF SPECIFIED CRITERIA HAVE BEEN MET.

3. WE DO NOT RPT NOT SEE THE ARTICLE 28(IX) TAKES AWAY FROM FOREGOING INTERPRETATION. IF ANYTHING, IT SEEMS TO US TO BOLSTER ARGUMENT. 28(IX) PROVIDES THAT "THE COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE" PLANS OF WORK DRAWN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF ARTICLE 33 WHICH IN TURN CLOSES THE LOOP BY INCORPORATING ANNEX I BY REFERENCE. THE LIST IN ARTICLE 28 IS A SET OF MANDATORY, NOT PERMISSIVE, COUNCIL ACTIONS. THE POSSIBILITY OF A DECISION TO DO NOTHING IS WRITTEN INTO APPROPRIATE SUB-ITEMS, EG. (XI). IF NECESSARY, WE COULD PROBABLY INSERT WORDS LIKE "NECESSARY" AND "APPROPRIATE" IN SUBITEM (V) AND (XIV) TO STRESS THIS POINT AT NEXT SESSION. MOREOVER, THE FACT THAT THE REFERENCE IS TO THE WORK PLAN EMPHASIZES THAT THE NATURE OF THE COUNCIL ACTION IS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE. IN ADDITION, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SECURITY OF TENURE, THE FORMALITY OF COUNCIL APPROVAL IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

4. IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL IN THIS SYSTEM IS PRO FORMA TO ENSURE CONVENTION REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET BY THE WORK PLAN IN ALL CASES EXCEPT WHEN AN ARTICLE 9 ISSUE IS BEFORE THE COUNCIL. IN THOSE CASES, HOWEVER, A WEIGHTED VOTE WOULD BE TAKEN ON THE ARTICLE 9 ISSUE ITSELF AND THE CONTRACT WOULD BE AWARDED ROUTINELY AFTER THE DECISION UNDER ARTICLE 9.

5. WHEN WE HAVE RECEIVED ALL OF THE TEXTS INCLUDING  
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THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS AND THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ARTICLES, WE WILL DRAW UP A MORE THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE ENTIRE DECISION-MAKING SYSTEM AS IT IMPACTS ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SEABED, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 MAY 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976USUNN01895  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 103976  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOS: COMMITTEE I - GUARANTEED ACCESS TO DEEP SEABED  
**TAGS:** PLOS, US, UN, LOS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006